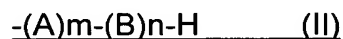


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

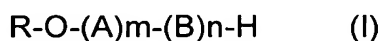
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An alkaline developing solution for development of a heat-sensitive presensitized plate of positive-working mode for use in making a lithographic printing plate, which developing solution comprises a ~~linear-type~~ linear alkyleneoxide adduct and a ~~branched-type~~ branched alkyleneoxide adduct wherein the branched alkyleneoxide adduct is selected from the compound having in the molecular structure thereof at least two groups represented by the following formula (II):



wherein A and B each represents -CH₂CH₂O- or -CH₂CH(CH₃)O- provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time.

2. (Currently Amended) The alkaline developing solution according to claim 1 wherein the ~~linear-type~~ linear alkyleneoxide adduct is selected from the compounds represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein R represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl or alkenyl group having carbon atoms of from 1 to 30, or an aryl group having carbon atoms of from 6 to 48, A and B each represents -CH₂CH₂O- or -CH₂CH(CH₃)O- provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time.

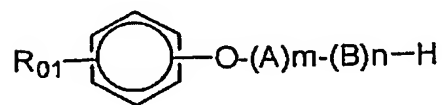
3. (Currently Amended) The alkaline developing solution according to claim 1 wherein the ~~linear-type~~ linear alkyleneoxide adduct is selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the following formula (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6):

(1) $\text{HO}-(\text{A})_m-(\text{B})_n-\text{H}$ (wherein A and B each represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}-$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time;

(2) $\text{C}_p\text{H}_{2p+1}-\text{O}-(\text{A})_m-(\text{B})_n-\text{H}$ (wherein A and B each represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}-$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time, and p is an integer of from 1 to 30;

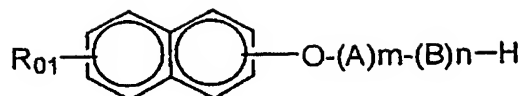
(3) $\text{C}_q\text{H}_{2q-1}-\text{O}-(\text{A})_m-(\text{B})_n-\text{H}$ (wherein A and B each represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}-$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time, and q is an integer of from 2 to 30;

(4)



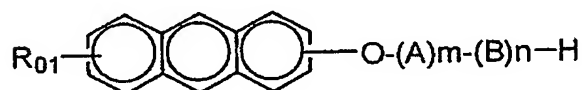
(wherein R_{01} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having carbon atoms of from 1 to 20 which may be in the form of linear or branched chain, A and B each represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}-$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time;

(5)



(wherein R_{01} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having carbon atoms of from 1 to 20 which may be in the form of linear or branched chain, A and B each represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}-$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time;

(6)



(wherein R_{01} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having carbon atoms of from 1 to 20 which may be in the form of linear or branched chain, A and B each represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}-$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time.

4. (Canceled)

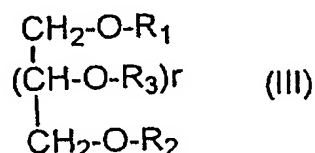
5. (Currently Amended) The alkaline developing solution of claim 1 wherein the ~~branched-type~~ branched alkyleneoxide adduct is selected from the group consisting of

compound (1) having in the molecular structure thereof at least two of the group: $-\text{O}-(A)_m-(B)_n-H$ (wherein A and B each represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}-$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n

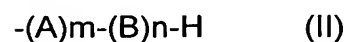
each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time, and

compound (2) having in the molecular structure thereof a nitrogen atom and at least two of the group: $-(A)_m-(B)_n-H$ (wherein A and B each represents $-CH_2CH_2O-$ or $-CH_2CH(CH_3)O-$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time, said group being attached to the nitrogen atom.

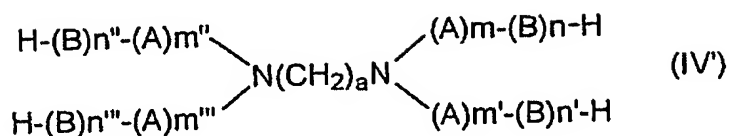
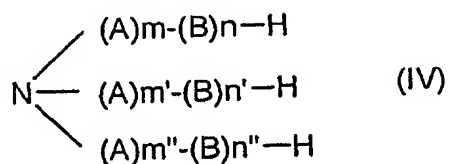
6. (Currently Amended) The alkaline developing solution of claim 1 wherein the branched-type branched alkyleneoxide adduct is selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the following formula (III), compounds represented by the following formula (IV), compounds represented by the following formula (IV'), alkyleneoxide adduct of polyglycerin, and trimethylolpropyl ether alkyleneoxide adducts:



wherein r represents an integer of from 1 to 10, and R_1 , R_2 and R_3 each represent a hydrogen atom or the following formula (II):



wherein A and B each represents $-CH_2CH_2O-$ or $-CH_2CH(CH_3)O-$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time, provided that at least two of R_1 , R_2 and R_3 represent the group represented by the formula (II),



wherein A and B each represents $\text{-CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O-}$ or $\text{-CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O-}$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time, m' and n' each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m' and n' are not zero at the same time, m'' and n'' each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m'' and n'' are not zero at the same time, and m''' and n''' each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m''' and n''' are not zero at the same time, and "a" in the formula (IV') is an integer of from 2 to 12.

7. (Original) The alkaline developing solution according to claim 1 which further comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactants and amphoteric surfactants.

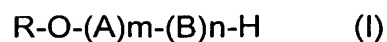
8. (Previously Presented) The alkaline developing solution of claim 7 wherein the anionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of fatty alcohol sulfuric ester salts, higher alkyl ether sulfate salts, aryl ether sulfate salts, alkyl aryl sulfonate, aliphatic alcohol phosphoric ester salts, alkyl amide sulfonate salts, sulfonate salts of dibasic aliphatic ester, hydroxyalkane sulfonate salts, alkane

sulfonate salts, alkyl diphenylether sulfonate salts, diphenylether disulfonate salts, dialkyl sulfosuccinate salts, olefin sulfonate salts, linear alkyl benzene sulfonate salts, branched alkyl benzene sulfonate salts, alkyl naphthalene sulfonate salts, alkyl phenoxy polyoxyethylene propyl sulfonate salts, polyoxyethylene alkyl sulfophenylether salts, disodium N-alkyl sulfosuccinate monoamide and petroleum sulfonates.

9. (Currently Amended) The alkaline developing solution of claim 7 wherein the amphoteric surfactant is selected from the group consisting of amino acid-type acid amphoteric surfactants and ~~betaine-type~~ betaine amphoteric surfactants.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of light-exposing to infrared radiation, a heat-sensitive presensitized plate of positive-working mode for use in making a lithographic printing plate, said presensitized plate having an image recording layer which comprises an IR-absorbing dye on a substrate, and developing the light-exposed plate with an alkaline developing solution which comprises a ~~linear-type~~ linear alkyleneoxide adduct and a ~~branched-type~~ branched alkyleneoxide adduct.

11. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein the ~~linear-type~~ linear alkyleneoxide adduct is selected from the compounds represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein R represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl or alkenyl group having carbon atoms of from 1 to 30, or an aryl group having carbon atoms of from 6 to 48, A and B

each represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}-$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time.

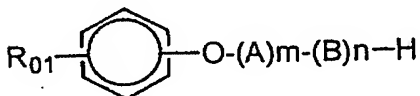
12. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein the ~~linear-type~~ linear alkyleneoxide adduct is selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the following formula (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6):

(1) $\text{HO}-(\text{A})_m-(\text{B})_n-\text{H}$ (wherein A and B each represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}-$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time;

(2) $\text{C}_p\text{H}_{2p+1}-\text{O}-(\text{A})_m-(\text{B})_n-\text{H}$ (wherein A and B each represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}-$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time, and p is an integer of from 1 to 30;

(3) $\text{C}_q\text{H}_{2q-1}-\text{O}-(\text{A})_m-(\text{B})_n-\text{H}$ (wherein A and B each represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}-$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time, and q is an integer of from 2 to 30;

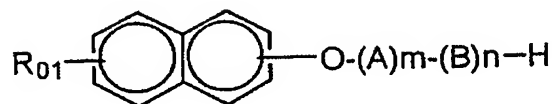
(4)



(wherein R_{01} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having carbon atoms of from 1 to 20 which may be in the form of linear or branched chain, A and B each represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}-$ provided that A and B are different from

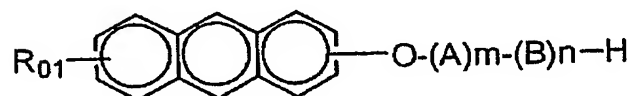
each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time;

(5)



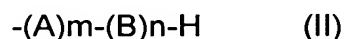
(wherein R_{01} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having carbon atoms of from 1 to 20 which may be in the form of linear or branched chain, A and B each represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}-$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time;

(6)



(wherein R_{01} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having carbon atoms of from 1 to 20 which may be in the form of linear or branched chain, A and B each represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}-$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time.

13. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein the ~~branched-type~~ branched alkyleneoxide adduct is selected from the compound having in the molecular structure thereof at least two groups represented by the following formula (II):



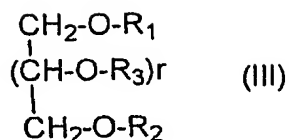
wherein A and B each represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}-$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time.

14. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein the ~~branched-type~~ branched alkyleneoxide adduct is selected from the group consisting of

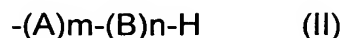
compound (1) having in the molecular structure thereof at least two of the group: $-\text{O}-(\text{A})_m-(\text{B})_n-\text{H}$ (wherein A and B each represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}-$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time, and

compound (2) having in the molecular structure thereof a nitrogen atom and at least two of the group: $-(\text{A})_m-(\text{B})_n-\text{H}$ (wherein A and B each represents $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{O}-$ provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time, said group being attached to the nitrogen atom.

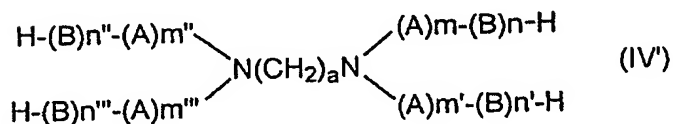
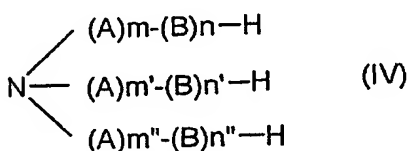
15. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein the ~~branched-type~~ branched alkyleneoxide adduct is selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the following formula (III), compounds represented by the following formula (IV), compounds represented by the following formula (IV'), alkyleneoxide adduct of polyglycerin, and trimethylolpropyl ether alkyleneoxide adducts:



wherein r represents an integer of from 1 to 10, and R₁, R₂ and R₃ each represent hydrogen atom or the following formula (II):



wherein A and B each represents -CH₂CH₂O- or -CH₂CH(CH₃)O- provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time, provided that at least two of R₁, R₂ and R₃ represent the group represented by the formula (II),



wherein A and B each represents -CH₂CH₂O- or -CH₂CH(CH₃)O- provided that A and B are different from each other, and m and n each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m and n are not zero at the same time, m' and n' each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m' and n' are not zero at the same time, m'' and n'' each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m'' and n'' are not zero at the same time, and m''' and n''' each represents 0 or an integer of from 1 to 50 provided that m''' and n''' are not zero at the same time, and "a" in the formula (IV') is an integer of from 2 to 12.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein the alkaline developing solution further comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactants and amphoteric surfactants.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 wherein the anionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of fatty alcohol sulfuric ester salts, higher alkyl ether sulfate salts, aryl ether sulfate salts, alkyl aryl sulfonate, aliphatic alcohol phosphoric ester salts, alkyl amide sulfonate salts, sulfonate salts of dibasic aliphatic ester, hydroxyalkane sulfonate salts, alkane sulfonate salts, alkyl diphenylether sulfonate salts, diphenylether disulfonate salts, dialkyl sulfosuccinate salts, olefin sulfonate salts, linear alkyl benzene sulfonate salts, branched alkyl benzene sulfonate salts, alkyl naphthalene sulfonate salts, alkyl phenoxy polyoxyethylene propyl sulfonate salts, polyoxyethylene alkyl sulfophenylether salts, disodium N-alkyl sulfosuccinate monoamide and petroleum sulfonates.

18. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 wherein the amphoteric surfactant is selected from the group consisting of amino acid-type acid amphoteric surfactants and ~~betaine-type~~ betaine amphoteric surfactants.